

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A system for separating a multi phase mixture comprising:

a centrifuge configured to separate the mixture into a first liquid phase component, a second liquid phase component and a solid phase component; and

a control system programmed with a set of fuzzy logic rules;

the control system configured to sense feed variables of the mixture into the centrifuge and at least one parameter of the first liquid phase component or the second liquid phase component and to adjust a feed temperature and a feed rate of the mixture based on the variables, the parameter and the set of fuzzy logic rules.

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~~the control system comprising a filter configured to differentiate signals representative of the feed variables from noise.~~

Claim 2 (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the control system further comprises a filter configured to differentiate signals representative of the feed variable from noise.

~~is configured to measure feedback parameters and is configured to adjust the feed temperature and the feed rate based on the feedback parameters.~~

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 2 wherein the control system further comprises a conflict resolution portion configured to resolve conflicts during adjusting of the feed temperature and the feed rate.

~~1 further comprising a heater configured to heat the mixture to the feed temperature and a pump in signal communication with the controller configured to pump the mixture into the centrifuge at the feed rate.~~

5. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein the mixture comprises an oil emulsion, the first liquid phase component comprises oil and the second liquid phase component comprises water.

6. (previously presented) A system for separating a multi phase mixture comprising:

a centrifuge configured to separate the mixture into a first liquid phase component, a second liquid phase component and a solid phase component;

a feed forward control system comprising a plurality of sensors, a fuzzy soft sensor in signal communication with the sensors programmed with a set of fuzzy logic rules, and a controller in signal communication with the fuzzy soft sensor,

the feed forward control system configured to sense feed variables of the mixture into the centrifuge and to adjust a feed temperature and a feed rate of the mixture based on the feed variables and the set of fuzzy logic rules; and

a feedback control system configured to measure feedback variables in the first liquid phase component or the second liquid phase component and to adjust the feed temperature and the feed rate based on the feedback variables and the set of fuzzy logic rules;

the feedback control system comprising a feedback controller including a conflict resolution portion configured to coordinate the operation of the controller and the feedback controller.

Claim 7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the feedback control system includes a BS&W sensor configured to measure a basic solids and water content of the first liquid phase component and to adjust the feed temperature and the feed rate based on the basic solids and water content and the set of fuzzy logic rules.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10. (original) The system of claim 6 wherein the feed variables include a feed temperature and a feed rate.

11. (original) The system of claim 6 wherein the feed variables include a feed temperature, a feed rate, a percent change of water and a percent change of solid expressed as a single feed magnitude change variable.

12. (previously presented) A system for separating a multi phase mixture comprising:

- a centrifuge configured to separate the mixture into a first liquid phase component, a second liquid phase component and a solid phase component;

- a feed forward control system comprising a plurality of sensors, a fuzzy soft sensor in signal communication with the sensors programmed with a set of fuzzy logic rules, and a controller in signal communication with the fuzzy soft sensor,

- the feed forward control system configured to sense feed variables of the mixture into the centrifuge and to adjust a feed temperature and a feed rate of the mixture based on the feed variables and the set of fuzzy logic rules; and

- a filter in signal communication with the fuzzy soft sensor configured to differentiate signals representative of the feed variables from noise.

13. (previously presented) The system of claim 12 further comprising a heater in signal communication with the controller configured to heat the mixture to the feed temperature and a pump in signal communication with the controller configured to pump the mixture into the centrifuge at the feed rate.

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the mixture comprises an oil emulsion, the first liquid phase component comprises oil and the second liquid phase component comprises water.

15. (currently amended) A system for separating a multi phase mixture comprising:

- a centrifuge configured to separate the mixture into a first liquid phase component, a second liquid phase component and a solid phase component;

- a heater configured to heat the mixture to a temperature set point (T2);

- a pump configured to pump the mixture into the centrifuge;

- a fuzzy soft sensor in signal communication with a first sensor configured to sense a feed temperature (T1) of the mixture and a second sensor configured to sense a basic solids and water content of the mixture;

- a set of fuzzy logic rules programmed into the fuzzy soft sensor and configured to express input from the first sensor and the second sensor into at least one feed change variable; and

- a controller in signal communication with the fuzzy soft sensor configured to adjust the temperature set point (T2) for the mixture, and to adjust a speed of the pump to achieve a selected feed rate for the mixture.

~~and~~

~~a filter configured to differentiate the input from the first sensor and the second sensor from noise.~~

16. (original) The system of claim 15 further comprising a third sensor configured to measure a basic solids and water content of the first liquid phase component, and a feedback controller in signal communication with the third sensor configured to adjust the temperature set point (T2) and the speed of the pump based on the rules and input from the third sensor.

17. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein the mixture comprises an oil emulsion, the first liquid phase component comprises oil and the second liquid phase component comprises water.

Claim 18 (canceled)

19. (original) The system of claim 15 wherein the centrifuge comprises a rotatable bowl for separating the first liquid phase component and the second liquid phase component and an auger for separating the solid phase component.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the centrifuge includes a tank configured to collect the first liquid phase component and a vapor recovery unit configured to collect and condense vapor from the tank.

21. (original) The system of claim 20 wherein the vapor recovery unit comprises a fan configured to move the vapor and a plurality of baffles configured to condense the vapor.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the rules are in an "if" "then" format.

23. (currently amended) A process for separating a multi phase mixture comprising:

providing a centrifuge configured to separate the mixture into a first liquid phase component, a second liquid phase component and a solid phase component; and

providing a fuzzy soft sensor programmed with a set of fuzzy logic rules;

sensing at least one feed variable of the mixture and at least one parameter of the first liquid phase component or the second liquid phase component; and

adjusting a feed temperature and a feed rate of the mixture into the centrifuge based on the feed variable, the parameter and the set of fuzzy logic rules.

~~+~~ and

~~differentiating noise from signals representative of the feed variable.~~

24. (previously presented) The process of claim 23 wherein the feed variable is selected from the group consisting of the feed temperature, a percent change of water and a percent change of solid of the mixture.

25. (previously presented) The process of claim 23 wherein the feed variable comprises a percent change of solid expressed as a single feed magnitude change variable.

Claim 26 (canceled)

27. (currently amended) The process of claim 23 further comprising resolving conflicts from the sensing step prior to performing the adjusting step.

~~sensing at least one feedback variable in the first liquid phase component or in the second liquid phase component and~~

~~adjusting the feed temperature and the feed rate using the feedback variable.~~

28. (original) The process of claim 23 wherein the mixture comprises an oil emulsion, the first liquid phase component comprises oil and the second liquid phase component comprises water.

29. (previously presented) A process for separating a multi phase mixture comprising:

providing a centrifuge configured to separate the mixture into a first liquid phase component, a second liquid phase component and a solid phase component;

providing a feed pump configured to pump the mixture into the centrifuge at a feed rate;

providing a heater configured to heat the mixture to a temperature set point;

providing a fuzzy soft sensor programmed with a set of fuzzy logic rules that relate a feed water composition change of the mixture, a feed solid composition change of the mixture, and a cold feed temperature change of the mixture to a feed pump speed change for the feed pump, and to a heater setpoint change for the heater;

sensing the basic solids and water content of the mixture and the cold feed temperature;

filtering signals representative of the basic solids and water content and the cold feed temperature from noise;

relating the basic solids and water content to the feed water composition change and to the feed solid composition change; and

adjusting the feed rate and the temperature set point using the rules, the sensing step, the filtering step and the relating step.

30. (original) The process of claim 29 wherein the mixture comprises an oil emulsion, the first liquid phase

component comprises oil and the second liquid phase component comprises water.

31. (original) The process of claim 29 further comprising sensing a basic solids and water content of the first liquid phase component to provide feedback data and adjusting the feed rate and the temperature set point using the feedback data.

32. (original) The process of claim 29 further comprising sensing an oil content of the second liquid phase component to provide additional feedback data and adjusting the feed rate and the temperature set point using the additional feedback data.

33. (original) The process of claim 29 further comprising collecting the first liquid phase component in a tank, collecting the vapor from the tank, and condensing the vapor.

34. (original) The process of claim 33 further comprising providing a vapor recovery unit comprising a fan configured to move the vapor and a plurality of baffles configured to condense the vapor.